POLICY ALERT

Date: October 6, 2008
Reference: # CSFP 2009-01
To: Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP) Contractors
Subject: Implementation of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008
Effective Date: October 1, 2008

Purpose

REPLACES CSFP Handbook Item 4141, Distribution Priorities of Commodities

REVISES Form H1504, Participant Application, to delete priority preferences.

Background

On June 18, 2008, the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act (the Farm Bill) of 2008, was enacted into law. It eliminates priorities of categorical eligibility for women, infants and children.

Implementation

October 1, 2008

Procedure

Replace Item 4141, Distribution Priorities of Commodities with the following:

4141 Distribution of Commodities

TDA and participating agencies must serve all CSFP applicants on a first-come, first-served basis. It is recommended that in areas where both CSFP and the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) operate, distribution sites refer women, infants and children to WIC. The WIC program provides greater accessibility to health care and nutrition education. It would be the more appropriate program for women, infants and children who are eligible for benefits. However, distribution sites may not turn away women, infants and children who prefer the CSFP.

When there are no funds available to provide CSFP benefits, or if all available caseload has been allocated, you must maintain a waiting list of individuals who apply for CSFP benefits. When vacancies occur, you must enroll applicants who are on the waiting list according to the date the application was received.

Applicants on the waiting list whose applications were received prior to October 1, 2008, will remain on the list in category priority order. Persons whose applications were received October 1, 2008, or later, must be placed on the waiting list in the order they are received.

continued

This Policy Remains in Effect Until Further Notice
Procedure continued

Form H1504, *Participant Application*, has been revised to remove priority preferences by category. Distribution sites may use the January 2007 or the October 2008 versions through October 31, 2008. Beginning November 1, 2008, distribution sites must use the October 2008 version only. The Form H1504 can be accessed on the TDA website at [www.snptexas.org](http://www.snptexas.org).

Authority

The Food, Conservation, and Energy Act (the Farm Bill) of 2008.

Contact

If you have any questions please contact your Commodity Distribution Specialist.